

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A removable gripping device for a container, comprising:

two members forming a gripper mounted on a gripping body in which one of the members forming a gripper is mobile and free to move in translation with respect to the gripping along a direction approximately parallel to a longitudinal direction of the gripping body between an open position and a closed position in which the members forming the gripper are adapted to grip an edge of the container, said gripping body having an internal cavity with a wall,

displacement means for displacing the members forming the gripper with respect to each other, said displacement means comprising a lever free to move in rotation with respect to the gripping body between an extended position and a retracted position in which the mobile member forming the gripper is in the closed position, and a transmission means extending between the lever and the mobile member forming the gripper adapted to displacing the mobile member forming the gripper in translation when the lever is pivoted, said displacement means being adapted to adjust a distance separating the two members forming the gripper in the closed position to a thickness of the gripped container when the lever is in the retracted position, and

~~a locking means for preventing separation of the mobile member forming the gripper when the mobile member forming the~~

~~gripper is in the closed position, and the locking means comprises a locking pin installed on the displacement means and designed to penetrate into a housing when the lever is in the retracted position~~ a locking pin installed on the displacement means, said locking pin having a head, and when said lever is in said retracted position and the two members forming the gripper are in the closed position adjusted to the thickness of the gripped container, said locking pin is positioned within said cavity so that said head is brought in contact with said wall by the mobile member forming a gripper that is urged by a spring.

19. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 18, wherein the housing has a through cross-section that depends on the position of the mobile member forming the gripper in the closed position.

20. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein, when the lever is in the retracted position, the locking pin penetrates into a ~~the~~ housing that comprises ~~a~~ the cavity formed in the gripping body and a slot formed through the mobile member forming the gripper.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 19, wherein the through cross-section of the housing becomes larger when the two members forming the gripper become closer to each other when in the closed position.

23. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~20~~ 18, wherein the locking pin is installed on the lever.

24. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 23, wherein the locking pin is installed free to move in translation with respect to the lever and a locking spring continuously tends to move the locking pin towards the direction of the housing.

25. (currently amended) A removable gripping device according to claim ~~24~~ 18, wherein the ~~lever is in the retracted position,~~
wall of the cavity on which the locking pin bears in contact
~~with a wall delimiting~~ delimits the cavity in the direction of the members forming the gripper ~~regardless of a distance separating the two members forming the gripper.~~

26. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 18, wherein the locking pin is flared from a head as far as a base through which the locking pin is connected to the displacement means.

27. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 26, wherein the locking pin is flared by a straight wall connecting the head to the base.

28. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 26, wherein the locking pin is flared by a stepped wall consisting of several steps and connecting the head to the base.

29. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 18, wherein the displacement means are shaped such that the lever is in a stable equilibrium position when in the extended position and when in the retracted position, and the

lever passes through an intermediate unstable equilibrium position when pivoting from one of the two stable equilibrium positions to the other.

30. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 18, further comprising a spring housed in the transmission means and adapted to apply a force to the mobile member so as to adjust a distance separating the two members forming the gripper.

31. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 18, wherein the transmission means are formed from a connecting rod free to move in rotation with respect to the lever and to the mobile member forming the gripper.

32. (previously presented) A removable gripping device according to claim 31, wherein the connecting rod is mounted free to rotate on the lever about a shaft close to an end of the lever opposite an end through which the lever is connected to the gripping body.

33. (cancelled)

34. (cancelled)

35. (new) A removable gripping device according to claim 21, wherein the wall of the cavity on which the locking bears in contact delimits the cavity in the direction of the members forming the gripper, the locking pin pressed by a wall delimiting the slot in the direction opposite the direction of the members forming the gripper.